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94 03-1054

BUILDING USE SURVEY FORM



ADDRESS 25-31 Essex

NAME OF BUILDING
(IF AVAILABLE): _____

No. OF STORIES: _____

PICTURE TAKEN: _____

RESIDENTIAL _____; COMMERCIAL _____;

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL _____

OTHER _____

Eighth
Seventh
Sixth
Fifth
Fourth
Third
Second
First
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DESCRIPTION OF USES/COMMENTS (TYPE OF USE PER FLOOR INCLUDED):

(C1002 1988)

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ADDRESS 25-31 Essex St. COR. Hersey Pl (alley)

NAME Essex Hotel

present

original

MAP No. 24N/12E

SUB AREA Theatre

DATE C. 1870-2 probably 1881

Style Deeds & City Director

source (no permit)

ARCHITECT

source

BUILDER

#25-27 Eliz. Eldridge

Marion M. Fox

OWNER #29-31 Warren Sherbourne/

31 Essex St.

original

present

PHOTOGRAPHS 9²/₅, 7¹/₆ .79

Ward 3, Parcel # 4974 UTM#19/330080/4690710

TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.
(non-residential) hotel

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 4 plus 1

ROOF mansard, scalloped cupola - dormers 6 metal segmental
slates headed dormers on
Essex, 5-7 on HerseyMATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl
(Other) brick stone concrete iron/steel/alum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION 6-bay High Victorian Gothic structure in monochrome Nova Scotia stone. Ground level obscured by large modern sign, 2nd floor segmental-arched lintels, 3rd & 4th fl. 4-center arched lintels, all lintels project and continue as lintel courses, belt courses also divide stories. Building terminates with metal cornice bracketed along the Hersey facade.

EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor - moderate drastic storefront obscured or altered

CONDITION good fair poor LOT AREA 5811 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS Part of "Liberty Tree" area

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) This fine

example of the High Victorian Gothic style,

probably built as a hotel, contributes

to the "Liberty Tree" area by serving as the

visual terminus to a row of notable 19th c.

Small-scale commercial
buildings along Essex St.

(Map)

Moved; date if known _____

Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community/ development	_____				

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The building may have been constructed in 1881. In that year Warren Sherbourne purchased half of the property, at #29-31;¹ that same year the Essex Hotel is first listed in the Boston City Directory. Since there was already a building on Sherbourne's new property, it is impossible to determine for certain whether he built a new hotel or converted an earlier building. In 1888 Sherbourne purchased the other half of the property, #25-27 from Elizabeth Eldridge subject to a lease to George Mark, proprietor of the Essex Hotel

The building continued in use as a hotel through the 20th century. In the first decade of the 20th it was the Continental; in the 20's it was the St. Regis.

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

National Register: Part of suggested "Liberty Tree" district.

Building appears vacant and is for sale.

Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Robert C. Waterston, grantor, Warren Sherbourne, grantee. 1540/357, 1544/366, 1682/69